

Marshall, Paul

From: Tipton, Lantz
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Draper, Seth; Huffman, Diane; Marshall, Paul; Miller, Patricia G.; Breedlove, Dan; Oesterreich, Justin; Bahney, Kimberly; Jay, Michael; Terriquez, Joe; Hill, Kimberly; Curtis, Glenn; Robichaud, Jeffery; Flournoy, Karen; Buchholz, Ken
Subject: South Sioux City, NE - citizen update
Attachments: OSHA_H2S.pdf

All,

We received a call from another concerned citizen regarding the H2S situation. The caller's lives at 3309 Le Mesa Way, South Sioux City, NE. The caller was very upset about the situation and she explained that her and her family are sick and have been evacuated from their home for 2 weeks. The caller explained that the symptoms that her and her family have been experiencing include sore throat, burning/watery eyes, and difficulty breathing. According to her, two in her household have asthma and have developed scarring on their lungs.

The caller explained that she received a letter from Mr. Kent Zimmerman from the City of South Sioux City informing her that the city will no longer pay for them to stay at the hotel and that their house was 'safe to return to' although the odor is still present in her home and they cannot be in the house. She explained that other residents on her street (Le Mesa Way) have returned to their homes even though the indoor testing has not been completed by a third party as was agreed to during meetings with the City and the Facility. She says that her house still has odors that make her and her family sick, but the city is sending people back to their homes. She explained that she has personally been on 2 different types of antibiotics and needs to go back to the doctor because they have not been working. She expressed concerns that the H2S gas could cause lung cancer.

She went on to describe conditions in homes that include, "Black mold on walls, black staining on plumbing fixtures, and lights flickering due to possible corrosion of the wiring and that the gas was still in the air."

The caller has been involved with the weekly meetings with the City and voiced her concerns, but the situation has not gotten better. She explained that many in her community are not fluent in English or Spanish and may not be aware of the assistance that is available. She explained that there has not been anyone from the State at the weekly meetings, but a representative from the Nebraska Department of Health and Senior Services would be at the meeting on December 5th. She described the situation as a "crisis" and that the City was not handling the situation properly.

I provided her with the latest update that we have from the NDEQ and provided her with contact information with the City and the Big Ox Energy facility.

Attached are the OSHA health hazards associated with Hydrogen Sulfide.

If there are any questions, please let myself or Seth Draper (x7080) know.

Respectfully,

Lantz Tipton
WENF/WWPD
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219

Resident had home tested for H2S on 11/18 and 11/28 but no H2S found. Note: sensitivity of test machine was 0.100 ppm. H2S can be smelled at 0.030 ppm. - ptm

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